Dewan's reply.—There is a good deal of force in what you say. If you are to continue to exist as a Municipal Council, you must be in a position to raise more revenue. I shall inspect the two places that you have mentioned as soon as possible, and see whether it is expedient to include them within the town of Neyyattinkara. When the Village Panchayat Bill becomes law, it will be the occasion for you to consider and decide whether you should continue to be a Municipal Council or whether you should elect to become a Panchayat.

91. Needs of the Trivandrum Municipality.

Mr. N. K. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Trivandrum) pointed out the many-sided importance of the Trivandrum Municipality and dwelt on some of the crying needs of the town such as the dust problem. He first spoke on the urgent necessity of widening the town roads and observed that, in view of the increasing traffic in the town, those roads would have to be widened, and that, if the Government postponed it, they would be obliged to spend larger sums on land acquisition, etc., later on, as the price of land was increasing day by day. The roads which demanded the immediate attention of the Government were the Chalai road and the road from the College junction to Bhaktivilas. The narrow and insanitary condition of the lanes in Chettikulangara, Rishimangalam, and near the Mint also called for consideration. The Member next pointed out that several tanks in the town were centres of infection and cesspools of disease. The only way out of the difficulty was to have a copious supply of water both for drinking and other purposes. The Member, therefore, urged the extreme desirability of bringing into fruition the water supply scheme prepared by the late Mr. Hrishikesh Banerji and which was now engaging the attention of the Government.

He then complained of the insanitary and unsatisfactory condition of the present drainage system of the town and said that the dual control over the drains by the D. P. W. and the Municipality made matters even worse.

The Member next spoke on the congestion of population and the allied problem of infectious diseases. As a remedy for the former he suggested the laying out of small parks and open spaces in the city and the shifting of some of the offices to different parts of the town, while as a preventive measure against small-pox he urged that vaccination should be made compulsory and that a good hospital should be provided for treating infectious and contagious diseases.

The Member then urged, for the consideration of Government, the desirability of prohibiting cow-killing in the town and the necessity of preventing drunken brawls in the streets at night, by the efficient enforcement of the Excise Rules.

In conclusion, the Member advocated greater powers being conferred on the Municipality and dwelt at length on the necessity and desirability of allowing the Trivandrum Municipality the privilege of electing a non-official President.

Dewan's reply to subjects Nos. 88 and 91.—The ground covered by both of you in regard to local wants is more or less identical. Mr. Parameswaran Pillai has covered some additional ground. I was watching attentively to see whether either of you would say something practicable in regard to the financial aspect of the various suggestions you have made for remedying the needs of the Trivandrum Municipality which you have brought to notice ; but neither of you has touched on that point. I am sorry I have to repeat the answer which I gave last year to a similar representation. I join issue with you in your attitude that the responsibility of the Municipal Council ends with pointing out defects and criticising Government for not removing them. Defects there are and in plenty. Even the best-regulated Municipal town in the world is not without its defects. I grant that there are very many defects in Trivandrum which cry for a remedy. But does the responsibility of the Municipal Council merely end with pointing out these defects and telling Government "spend money, spend more money and remove all these defects"? Is it not the duty of the Municipal Council as much as that of the Government, to examine the financial aspect and to say how best we could remedy these defects? I would

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request you to see whether it is not the duty of the Municipal Council to remedy these defects and to place before the Government constructive and practical schemes and then seek for Government help. Last year, I requested the members who represented the Trivandrum Municipal Council in this Assembly to do something like that. I told them that I was ready to meet them and that I was ready to go out with them and then to inspect and discuss municipal matters with them for the purpose of evolving something practicable out of them. I do not think we gain very much by your repeatedly pointing out the needs of the town and saying that Government must spend more money. The Trivandrum Municipality is receiving special treatment at the hands of the Government, so much so that the special treatment given to it has been a sore point with other Municipalities in the State. Government are, as far as funds permit, doing a good deal for the Trivandrum town. Government are maintaining the town roads, lighting the town, and are attending to the drains, and Government are also doing a number of other things for Trivandrum which they are not doing for mofussil Municipalities. It behoves the Trivandrum Municipal Council therefore to see how far they can take the Government with them in the matter of town improvement, relief of congestion, water-supply and drainage, and other crying needs of the town.

In regard to the question of the non-official Chairman, I must say that Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has not put the question fairly before the Assembly. Government have already told the Municipal Council that they are prepared to give them the privilege of electing their own non-official president, subject to one condition, *viz.*, that the executive head of this most important Municipality, the premier Municipality of the State, should be a responsible official of the rank of a Peishkar, in the same way as the executive heads of Municipalities of similar importance elsewhere in India are. Subject to that one condition, Government said that they were prepared to give the Trivandrum Municipality the right to elect their own non-official President. Government have not yet had a direct reply to that.

Mr. N. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.—The present Municipal Regulation, V of 1095, is not based on the Madras City Municipality Act.

Dewan.—It is based neither on the City Municipality Act nor on the District Municipalities Act.

Mr. N. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.—In the District Municipalities Act, we do not find a provision for an executive head of the status suggested by Government. We want our Regulation to be amended on the lines of that Act. A thorough revision of the Regulation as suggested by the Government would take a lot of time and meanwhile Government might give us the right to elect our own Chairman. That is all my suggestion.

Dewan.—The amendment of the Regulation in this one respect, even granting that an amendment is necessary, is not a matter which need take a long time. At the most, it will take three or four months, but the matter has been pending for the last two years.

92. Needs of the Attingal town with special reference to water-supply and poramboke.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Attingal) began by referring to the chief roads and lanes of the local Municipality and pointed out that the widening, especially of the latter, was essential in the interests of trade and sanitation in the town. He also said that his Municipality widened about 5 or 6 lanes in the town, and that the further activity of the Council in that direction was checked by various obstacles. He spoke of the numerous encroachments on the roads and lanes of the town, and gave many instances of the same. He then referred to the tanks in the town, and quoted several instances of encroachments thereon by adjoining land-owners. He also pointed out that the local tanks were in a neglected condition, and that, if they could be improved, they would prove to be of great help to the people and cattle in the town. He instanced the Matankulam, Patrakkulam, Vayalkulam, Tottukulam, Attakkulam, etc., as standing in need of immediate restoration. The

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